

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 16, wherein said performing echo cancellation substantially reduces the effect, on signals received by said first receiver, of non-linearities present in said first transmitter.
3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein said performing echo cancellation further comprises:
 - converting said analog output signal into a corresponding digital signal, said digital signal corresponding to at least a part of the echo signals as well as the non-linearities present in said first transmitter; and
 - subtracting the digital signal from signals received by said first receiver to produce a compensated digital signal.
4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein said performing echo cancellation further comprises training an echo canceler to account for at least a part of the echo signals imparted by said echo channel on signals received by said first receiver.
5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein said performing echo cancellation further comprises updating said echo canceler with an update signal to increase the accuracy of an echo estimate generated by said echo canceler.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A method according to claim 1, further comprising:~~ An echo cancellation method for a digital data communication system comprising a first device having a first transmitter and a first receiver, and a second device having a second transmitter and a second receiver, wherein said first transmitter is configured to transmit signals to said second receiver over a downstream communication channel, said first receiver is configured to receive signals from said second transmitter over an upstream communication channel, and an echo channel conveys echo signals between said first transmitter and said first receiver, said method comprising:

generating an analog output signal by said first transmitter for receipt by said second receiver, the analog output signal including characteristics associated with a nonlinearity introduced by said first transmitter;

sampling said analog output signal;

performing echo cancellation based on said analog output signal that includes the characteristics associated with the nonlinearity, using an echo canceler having a transfer function that is based upon a transfer function of a line coupling between the first transmitter and the second receiver, wherein said echo cancellation cancels an echo signal conveyed by said echo channel;

sampling a digital signal provided by a digital signal processor, said digital signal being operatively coupled to an input of said first transmitter; and

performing a second echo cancellation based on said digital signal, wherein said second echo cancellation further cancels the echo signals conveyed by said echo channel.

7-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A communication device according to claim 1, wherein said device further comprises a first analog-to-digital converter to convert the analog signal of said transmitter into a digital signal associated with the input signal of said echo canceler.

13. (Previously Presented) A communication device according to claim 12, wherein said device further comprises:

a second analog-to-digital converter to convert an impaired analog signal transmitted by the second communication device into a digital signal, wherein said digital signal of said second analog-to-digital converter contains the echo signals and non-linearities present in said digital communication system and comprises the digital signal sent by the second communication device.

14. (Previously Presented) A communication device according to claim 13 wherein said echo canceler is capable of being trained to account for the echo signals present in said digital communication system.

15. (Previously Presented) A communication device according to claim 14, wherein said echo canceler is capable of being updated to increase an accuracy of an echo estimate generated by said echo canceler.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A communication device according to claim 11, said device further comprising:~~ A communication device to compensate for non-linearities and echo signals present in a digital communication system, said device comprising:

a transmitter to provide an analog output signal having characteristics associated with a nonlinearity introduced by the transmitter;

a receiver to receive a compensated digital signal;

an echo canceler having an input signal and an output signal, wherein said input signal is essentially the analog output signal provided by the transmitter and having the characteristics associated with the nonlinearity, and said output signal is representative of the echo signals and the non-linearities present in said digital communication system, the echo canceler having a transfer function that is based upon a transfer function of a line coupling present in the digital communication system;

means for producing said compensated digital signal in response to the output signal of said echo canceler and a signal sent by a second communication device associated with said digital communication system; and

a second echo canceler having an input signal and an output signal, wherein said input signal of said second echo canceler is operatively coupled to an input of said transmitter, said output signal of said second echo canceler is representative of said echo signals, and wherein said second echo canceler is further operative to cancel the echo signals present in said digital communication system.

17. (Currently Amended) An echo cancellation method for a digital data communication system comprising a first device having a first transmitter and a first receiver, and a second device having a second transmitter and a second receiver, said first transmitter being configured to transmit signals to said second receiver over a downstream communication channel, and said first receiver being configured to receive signals from said second transmitter over an upstream communication channel, said method comprising:

generating an analog output signal by said first transmitter for receipt by said second receiver, the analog output signal including characteristics associated with a nonlinearity introduced by the first transmitter;

sampling said analog output signal;

detecting a signal on an echo channel associated with an actual echo signal at said second device; and

performing echo cancellation based on said sampled analog output signal having the characteristics associated with the nonlinearity and said signal on said echo channel, by using an echo canceler having a transfer function that is based upon a transfer function of a line coupling between the first transmitter and the second receiver;

sampling a digital signal provided by a digital signal processor, said digital signal being operatively coupled to an input of said first transmitter; and

performing a second echo cancellation based on said digital signal, wherein said second echo cancellation further cancels said signal on said echo channel.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for compensating for non-linearities introduced into a digital communication system, said method comprising:

sampling an analog output provided by a local transmitter, said analog output including a known training signal and characteristics associated with a nonlinearity introduced by said local transmitter;

calculating an estimated echo signal in response to said known training signal;

detecting a signal on an echo channel associated with an actual echo signal at a second device; and

producing a compensated digital signal for receipt by a local receiver, wherein said nonlinearity is substantially eliminated from the compensated digital signal on the basis of the estimated echo signal and said signal associated with said actual echo signal at said second device, by using an echo canceler that receives the sampled analog output that includes the characteristics associated with the nonlinearity, the echo canceler having a transfer function that is based upon a transfer function of a line coupling present in the digital communication system;

sampling a digital signal provided by a digital signal processor, said digital signal being operatively coupled to an input of said local transmitter; and

performing a second echo cancellation based on said digital signal, wherein said second echo cancellation further cancels said signal on the echo channel.

19. (Currently Amended) A first communication device for compensating for non-linearities and echo signals present in a digital communication system, said first device comprising:

a transmitter to provide an analog output signal having characteristics associated with a ~~linearity~~ nonlinearity introduced by the transmitter;

a receiver to receive a compensated digital signal;

an echo canceler coupled to an output terminal of the transmitter having an input signal and an output signal, wherein said input signal is essentially the analog output signal provided by the transmitter and having the characteristics associated with the nonlinearity, and said output signal is representative of the echo signals and the non-linearities present in said

digital communication system, the echo canceler having a transfer function that is based upon a transfer function of a line coupling present in the digital communication system;

an input associated, at least in part, with an actual echo signal at a second communication device; ~~and~~

a summing junction operably coupled with the output signal of the echo canceller and further operably coupled with the input associated, at least in part, with said actual echo signal at said second communication device; and

a second echo canceler having an input signal and an output signal, wherein said input signal of said second echo canceler is operatively coupled to an input of said transmitter, said output signal of said second echo canceler is representative of said echo signals, and wherein said second echo canceler is further operative to cancel the echo signals present in said digital communication system.

20. (Previously Presented) The first device of claim 19 wherein the line coupling includes a termination resistor, an input impedance, and an effective transmission line impedance.

21. (Previously Presented) The communication device of claim 19 wherein the transfer function of the echo canceler equals the transfer function of the line coupling.

22. (Currently Amended) The communication device of claim ~~14~~16 wherein the transfer function of the echo canceler equals the transfer function of the line coupling.